

International Panel Presentation at CCA meeting

On Wednesday afternoon a panel of sisters and Fr. Benedict presented information from the national association/international federation pre-meeting.

Sr. Claire began by reading a greeting message from Mother Therese, co-ordinator of the St. Joseph's Association (who was invited but declined the invitation) and showed a brief video.

Sr. Lucia, head of the Netherlands Federation made a full presentation of their current situation. See separate paper.

Sr. Mary Clare, co-ordinator of Mary Queen of Carmel Association extended an open invitation to all sisters in initial formation to participate in their program being offered in October 2018 and an on-going formation program that will be offered in October 2019 with Fr. Rafael presenting.

Sr. Mary Clare and Fr. Benedict then presented on the idea of a gathering of English speaking Associations and Federations as follows:

- Where: Under consideration - Antwerp/Brussels/Gent (friars retreat house) type of facilities to be explored
- When: Late 2019 or 2020
- Who attends: Leaders of associations/federations of the English speaking region (US, Canada, UK, Ireland, Australia, Netherlands) - Others?
- How: form a planning group of 6-8
- Financial support: Look at an international fund? TBD
- Agenda possibilities: Follow up of Letter of May 2015 from Avila General Chapter- July 16, 2012 Letter of Fr. Saverio
- Purpose(s): Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the leadership, level of trust and communication among these associations/communities. Explore on-going formation - common and essential themes.
- Preparation and broader engagement: Have "assignments" for the grass roots to work on and then output comes to the General Gathering, and then there are outputs from the meeting itself that are shared broadly. FG has already noted his support of international gatherings to foster communion among the nuns.
- Celebrate the Antwerp 400th anniversary... visit the Antwerp monastery.

Sr. Claire presented the idea of exploring a common house of formation inclusive of a core formative community that would sponsor sessions for formation - could be interassociation.

Sr. Michaelene represented the discussions on leadership and on-going formation. These included references to Father General's July 16, 2012 letter on sisters being formed to take responsibility within community "in an adult manner with all the inevitable risks that this brings with it". The example from France's northern federation - a yearly cycle of formation in

leadership for all sisters. Mentors are available to mentor other sisters. Having training in Canon Law, rights and responsibilities, e.g., Dan Ward. Team models of leadership - one way of how the younger sisters can learn.. Learn by doing.

Other examples:

- Exercise of leadership in small ways.. Observe capacity of certain people.
- Within the community - read books on leadership and then shared insights and learnings
- John Maxwell - author on Leadership .. style slightly evangelical.
- Formation congress - formators program.
- CCA - tried to develop a leadership development program
- LCWR - have programs for religious for leadership development-

E.g. Judy Long when elected to being prioress for the first time, attended a training for new leaders.

Sr. Monika and Sr Shelagh presented on discussions regarding the need to “stick together” rather than drawing into ourselves (countercultural to what is happening in the world, such as Brexit, nationalism, populism, “America First”, etc.) The discussions focused on the importance of building up national and international relationships among the nuns.

Sr. Dawn Marie talked about associations accompanying communities on their decision journey to “reach completion” using her own experience in the decision to close the monastery in Guam, taking care of the sisters who were ill, and placing the remaining four sisters in the community of Carmel by the Sea. She also spoke about the role of local lay people in helping out with the care of the infirm/elderly in a smaller close by facility.